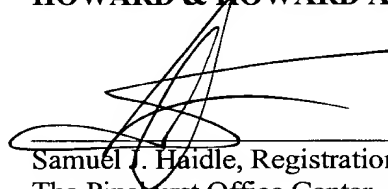


Claims 4-29 and 37-40 remain pending in the application. None of the claims are being changed in the subject Response. The subject Response merely recites the claims as Amended in the December 26, 2002 Amendment in proper format.

The application is in condition for allowance except for the non-compliance of the December 26, 2002 Amendment. Having now properly conformed this Amendment, the application is believed ready for issuance. No fees are believed due for the submission of this Response. However, if any additional fees are required the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2789. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**

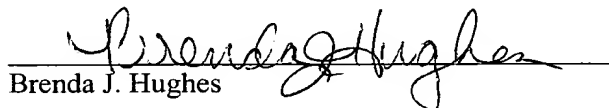


Samuel J. Haidle, Registration No. 42,619  
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Dated: November 12, 2004

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that the attached **Response** and **return post card** are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the **Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**, on **November 12, 2004**.



Brenda J. Hughes